

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A splice system for linear connection of fishing lines, the system comprising:

a female connector having an outer surface, first and second opposite ends, and a longitudinal axis, the outer surface having an aperture disposed thereon, the first end connected to a first fishing line section and the second end having a co-axial opening therein, the connector having a co-axial interior feature with a radial extent; and

a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the second end connected to a second fishing line section and the first end configured for coaxial insertion into the opening of the female connector, the second end comprising a plurality of resilient petals having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the interior feature of the female connector;

wherein the resilient petals of the male connector deform to allow passage of the second end of the male connector axially past the interior feature.

2. (original) The splice system of claim 1 wherein the female connector is removably connected to the first fishing line section.

3. (original) The splice system of claim 2 further comprising:

an axial bore in the first end of the female connector having a diameter greater than a diameter of an end of the first fishing line section and less than a diameter of a knot formed at the end of the first fishing line.

4. (currently amended) The splice system of claim 1 wherein the male connector has a head at the first end and a plurality of petals at the second end, the plurality of petals having a radial extent greater than a radial extent of the head.

5. (withdrawn) The splice system of claim 1 further comprising a ramp disposed on an interior surface of the female connector.
6. (original) The splice system of claim 1 wherein the interior feature is a raised interior annulus.
7. (original) The splice system of claim 6 further comprising a radially extending flat surface disposed on the raised interior annulus, the flat surface facing the first end of the female connector.
8. (original) The splice system of claim 1 wherein the male connector is permanently connected to the second fishing line.
9. (original) The splice system of claim 1 further comprising a float disposed on a fishing line section.
10. (original) The splice system of claim 9 in which the float is radially symmetric.
11. (original) The splice system of claim 10 in which the float is tapered.
12. (withdrawn) The splice system of claim 9 further comprising a groove disposed on the outer surface of the female connector and an annulus disposed on the float configured to mate with the groove.
13. (withdrawn) An apparatus comprising a card having a plurality of fishing line connectors removably disposed thereon, each connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, and having an axial bore extending from the first end to the second end thereof.

14. (previously presented) A method for linear connection of fishing lines comprising:
- providing a female connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the first end connected to a first fishing line section and the second end having an opening therein the connector having a co-axial interior feature with a radial extent;
- providing a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the second end connected to a second fishing line section and the first end configured for coaxial insertion into the opening of the female connector, the second end comprising a plurality of resilient petals having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the female connector;
- inserting the male connector into the opening of the female connector; and
- moving the resilient petals of the second end of the male connector axially past the interior feature of the female connector such that the resilient petals deform radially inwardly while moving axially past the interior feature.
15. (original) The method of claim 14 in which the step of providing a first fishing line section connected to a female connector includes passing an end of the first fishing line through an axial bore in the female connector and knotting the end of the first fishing line.
16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
- providing a plurality of the female connectors on a card; and
- separating one of the female connectors from the card after knotting the end of the first fishing line.
17. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
- providing a float having an axial bore; and
- passing the end of the first fishing line through the bore of the float prior to passing the end of the first fishing line through the bore of the female connector.

18. (previously presented) A method for replacing a fishing line section comprising:
  - providing a first fishing line section connected to a female connector, the female connector having an outer surface with an aperture disposed thereon;
  - providing a second fishing line section connected to a male connector, the male connector being connected to the female connector;
  - moving the male connector through the aperture to separate the male connector from the female connector;
  - cutting the second fishing line and discarding the second fishing line and the male connector;
  - providing a second male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the second end connected to a third fishing line section and the first end configured for coaxial insertion into the opening of the female connector, the second end of the male connector comprising a plurality of resilient petals having a radial extent greater than a radial extent of an interior feature of the female connector;
  - inserting the second male connector into the opening of the female connector; and
  - moving the resilient petals of the second end of the second male connector axially past the interior feature of the female connector, whereby the petals deform radially inwardly while moving past the interior feature.